



North Carolina Blue Star Memorial Marker Program Directory

[History](#)

[Program Directory](#)

[Contact](#)



BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER PROGRAM

Blue Star Memorial Markers Across North Carolina

Click on listing to reach page.

- [Brevard, Transylvania County](#)
- [Chimney Rock, Rutherford County](#)
- [Dunn, Harnett County](#)
- [Durham, Durham County](#)
- [Emerald Isle, Carteret County](#)
- [Fayetteville, Cumberland County](#)
- [Gastonia, Gaston County](#)
- [Goldsboro, Wayne County](#)
- [Greensboro, Guilford County](#)
- [Hamlet, Richmond County](#)
- [Hickory, Catawba County](#)
- [Jacksonville, Onslow County](#)
- [Jacksonville, Onslow County](#)
- [Knightdale, Wake County](#)
- [Lewisville, Forsyth County](#)
- [Lillington, Harnett County](#)
- [Mebane, Alamance County](#)
- [Monroe, Union County](#)
- [Mount Airy, Surry County](#)
- [Murfreesboro, Hertford County](#)
- [Murphy, Cherokee County](#)
- [New Bern, Craven County](#)
- [Newport, Carteret County](#)
- [Pilot Mountain, Stokes County](#)
- [Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County](#)
- [Reidsville, Rockingham County](#)
- [Rocky Mount, Nash County](#)
- [Smithfield, Johnston County](#)
- [Spivey's Corner, Sampson County](#)
- [Statesville, Iredell County](#)
- [Statesville, Iredell County](#)
- [Tarboro, Edgecombe County](#)
- [Trent Woods, Craven County](#)

Rest Areas & Visitor's Centers Blue Star Memorial Markers

Click on listing to reach page.

- [I-26 Buncombe/Henderson County](#)
- [I-26 Henderson County](#)
- [I-26 Polk County](#)
- [I-40 Catawba County](#)
- [I-40 Davie County](#)
- [I-40 Duplin County](#)
- [I-40 McDowell County](#)
- [I-77 Iredell County](#)
- [I-77 Mecklenburg County](#)
- [I-77 Surry County](#)
- [I-85 Davidson County](#)
- [I-85 Davidson County](#)
- [I-95 Northampton County](#)
- [I-95 Robeson County](#)
- [U.S. 17 Beaufort County](#)
- [U.S. 64 Dare County](#)
- [U.S. 70 Craven County](#)





HISTORY OF THE BLUE STAR MEMORIALS

At the close of World War II, National Garden Clubs (called National Council of State Garden Clubs at the time), like other public-spirited groups, were seeking a suitable means of honoring U.S. service men and women. Garden Clubs members visualized a living memorial, preferring to help beautify and preserve the country these men and women had fought for, rather than build stone monuments in their honor.

In 1944, Mrs. Lewis M. Hull, Garden Club of New Jersey president and Mrs. Vance Hood, roadside chairwoman of the Garden Club of New Jersey, had an inspired idea: Plant 1,000 flowering dogwood trees along 5 miles of highway that had been designated the Blue Star Drive by the state lawmakers. No billboards would be allowed on the memorial stretch. The project was named for the blue star in the service flag, which hung in windows of homes and businesses to honor service men and women.

At the 1945 National Council of State Garden Clubs Annual Meeting in New York City, Spencer Miller, New Jersey's state highway commissioner who helped to implement the New Jersey project, proposed that the program be adopted by NCSGC. At the 1945 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting, the project was approved. A "ribbon of living memorial plantings traversing every state" called The Blue Star Memorial Highway Program was adopted at the 1946 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. In 1947, Mrs. Frederick R. Kellogg (NCSGC president from 1930 to 1933) designed a marker that would identify the highways.

Clubs responded enthusiastically, with Rhode Island receiving the first endorsement. After official approval of the site, garden clubs would purchase markers and planting materials. Highway departments would plant and maintain the area. This was the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national scale.

Although it began as a way to honor World War II veterans, its mission expanded in 1951 to include all men and women who served, were serving or would serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. The need for an extension of the program to accommodate other than dedicated highways became apparent. As a result, a smaller Byway Marker, to be placed in areas such as parks, civic and historical grounds, was approved at the 1981 convention in Atlanta. This marker was changed at the 1994 convention in Connecticut to be more descriptive by including the words, "A Tribute to the Armed Forces of America."

A third marker was added at the 1996 convention in Michigan. This marker was identical to the original Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker, except for the removal of the word "Highway." This change allowed the marker to be placed on the grounds of a national cemetery or Veterans Administration center. At the 2004 convention in St. Louis, the scope of this marker was enlarged to include other appropriate civic locations.

[Back to Program Directory](#)

Brevard, Transylvania County

Location: Intersection of Broad and Caldwell streets

Dedicated:

Presented by: Brevard Garden Club

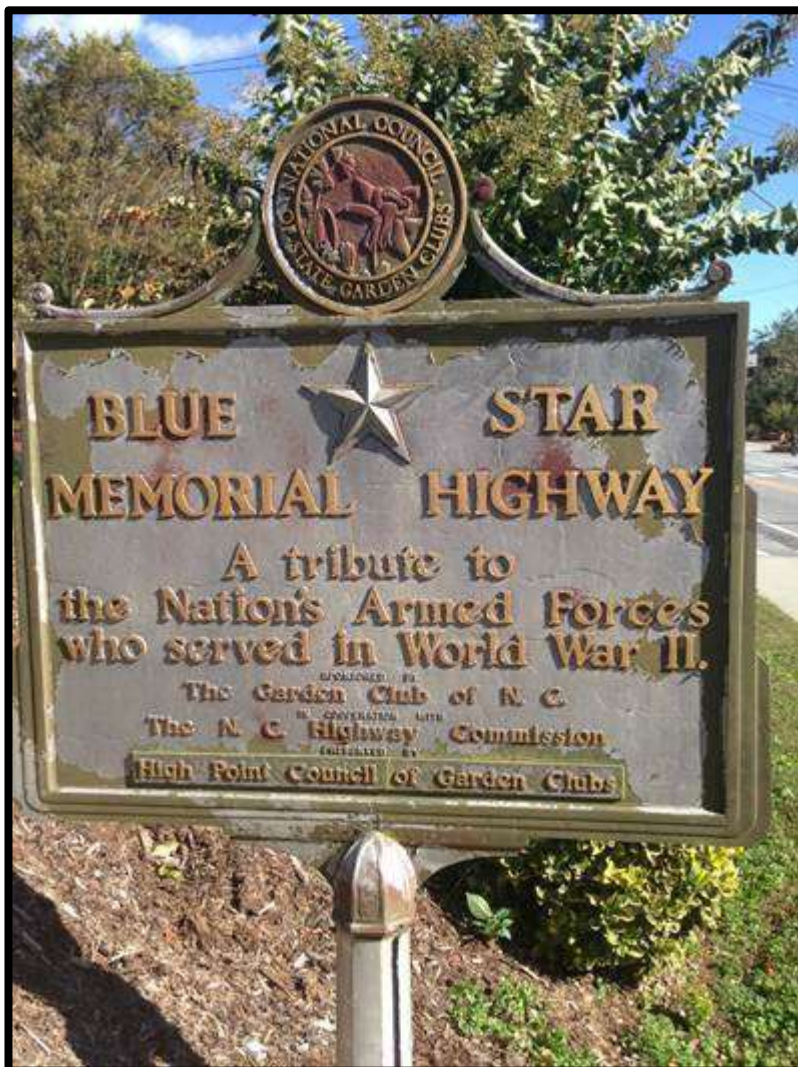


Chimney Rock, Rutherford County

Location: U.S. 74A across from Chimney Rock State Park entrance

Dedicated:

Presented by: High Point Council of Garden Clubs; Garden Club of North Carolina



Dunn, Harnett County

Location: Dunn Veterans Park

Dedicated: Nov. 6, 2016

Presented by: Youth Garden Club*

**This is the first Youth Garden Club sponsored Blue Star Byways Marker in North Carolina.*



Durham, Durham County

Location: Veterans Administration Hospital (Fulton Street)

Dedicated: April 27, 2014

Presented by: Durham Council of Garden Clubs



Emerald Isle, Carteret County

Location: N.C. 58 at Crystal Coast Visitors Center

Dedicated: Nov. 11, 2015

Presented by: Emerald Isle Garden Club; Town of Emerald Isle;
Garden Club of North Carolina



Fayetteville, Cumberland County

Location: Hay Street at Freedom Memorial Park

Dedicated: March 3, 1956

Presented by: Cross Creek Garden Club



Gastonia, Gaston County

Location: East Franklin Boulevard, near South Marietta Street
(Gastonia Conference Center)

Dedicated: May 20, 2015

Presented by: Gastonia Council of Garden Clubs; City of Gastonia; Keep Gastonia Beautiful



Goldsboro, Wayne County

Location: Intersection of Spence Avenue/U.S. 70

Dedicated: Nov. 20, 2013

Presented by: Evergreen Garden Club; Citizens and Veterans of Wayne County



Greensboro, Guilford County

Location: In clover leaf at East Wendover Avenue and Huffine Mill Road

Dedicated: 1976

Presented by: Greensboro Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.



Hamlet, Richmond County

Location: U.S. 74, on site of New Hamlet Senior Center

Dedicated: Oct. 18, 1984

Presented by: Hamlet Garden Club

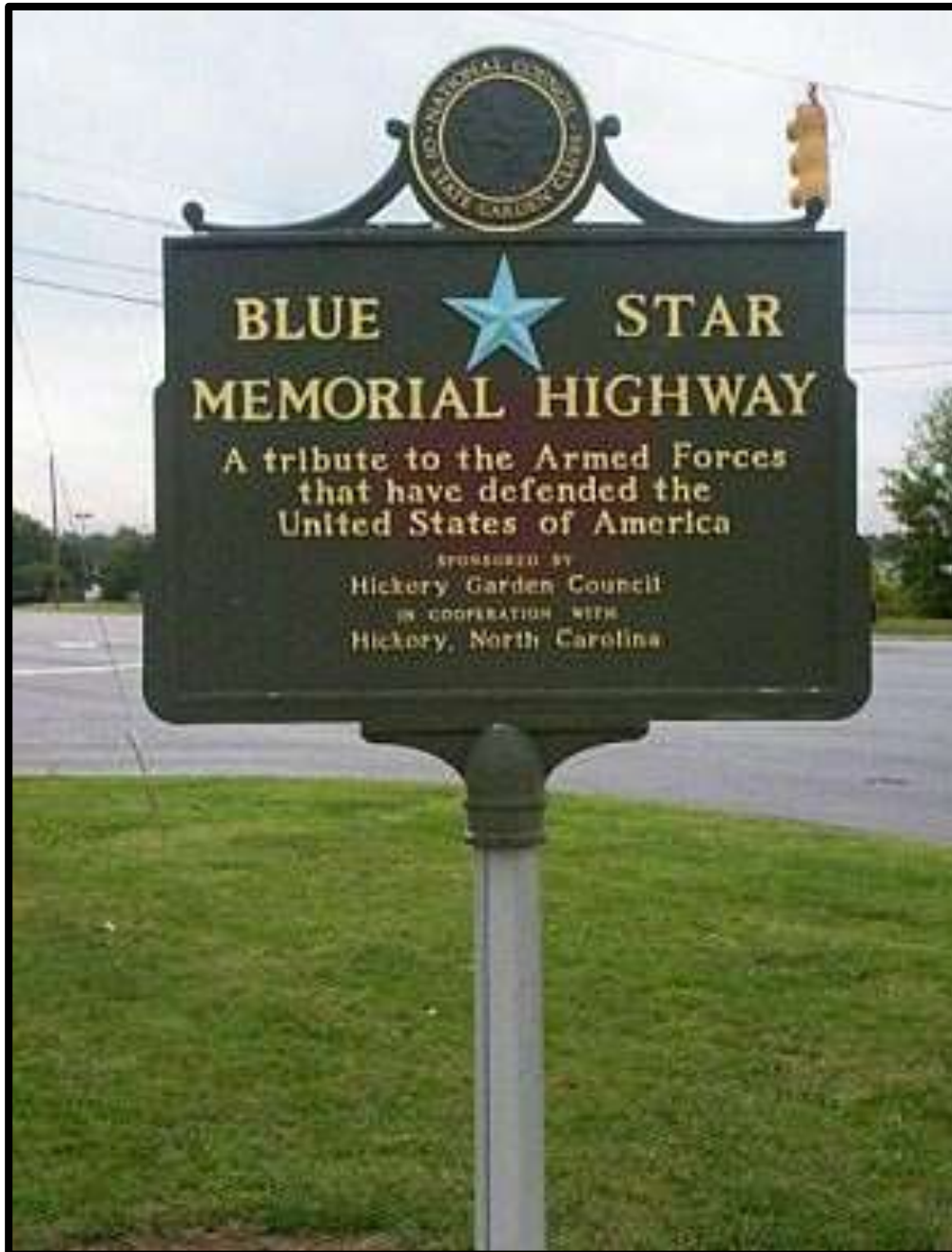


Hickory, Catawba County

Location: 1855 U.S. 70, eastbound lane

Dedicated: Oct. 18, 1984

Presented by: Hickory Garden Council



Jacksonville, Onslow County

Location: Lejeune Boulevard, at New Bridge Street (originally N.C. 24, near City Hall, going toward Camp LeJeune)

Dedicated: May 27, 1984; moved July 6, 2017

Presented by: Jacksonville Beautification and Appearance Commission; Onslow County Garden Council



Jacksonville, Onslow County

Location: NCDOT District Office (295-A Wilmington Highway); originally U.S. 17 South

Dedicated: Between 1985 and 1993; moved July 6, 2017

Presented by: Onslow County Garden Club Council



Knightdale, Wake County

Location: Knightdale Veterans Park (originally First Avenue/Main Street)

Dedicated: Originally, unknown; moved and rededicated Nov. 11, 2018

Presented by: Two Green Thumbs Garden Club



Lewisville, Forsyth County

Location: U.S. 421

Dedicated: May 5, 2012

Presented by: Lewisville Garden Club



Lillington, Harnett County

Location: Veterans Memorial Park

Dedicated: May 30, 2016

Presented by: Four Seasons Garden Club



Mebane, Alamance County

Location: U.S. 70 at the Veteran's Memorial Garden

Dedicated:

Presented by: Mebane Council of Garden Clubs



Monroe, Union County

Location: Union County Public Library, Monroe Branch

Dedicated: Early 1980s

Presented by: Monroe Garden Club



Mount Airy, Surry County

Location: Corner of West Pine and South Main streets

Dedicated: Nov. 9, 2018

Presented by: Mountain View Gardeners Garden Club; Dr. John L. Gravitte Family Dentistry



Murfreesboro, Hertford County

Location: U.S. 158

Dedicated: 1972

Presented by: Southern Belles High School Garden Club



Murphy, Cherokee County

Location: U.S. 64, west of Murphy

Dedicated:

Presented by: Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.



New Bern, Craven County

Location: U.S. 70 West at Country Club Road (Exit 416)

Dedicated: Unknown

Presented by: New Bern Garden Club; Garden Club of North Carolina Inc.; NCDOT



Newport, Carteret County

Location: U.S. 70 East and Howard Boulevard

Dedicated: Feb. 15, 1971

Presented by: Newport Bud 'N Shrub Garden Club



Pilot Mountain, Stokes County

Location: Pilot Mountain Scenic Overlook

Dedicated: Nov. 10, 2013

Presented by: Pinnacle Garden Club; Pilot Mountain Garden Club; Evening Bloomers Garden Club



Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County

Location: N.C. 58

Dedicated: Nov. 9, 2016

Presented by: Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club



Reidsville, Rockingham County

Location: Access ramp at U.S. 158 West (Richardson Drive) and U.S. 29 South Business (Freeway Drive)

Dedicated:

Presented by: Reidsville Council of Garden Clubs



Rocky Mount, Nash County

Location: Wesleyan Boulevard/May Drive intersection

Dedicated:

Presented by: Garden Club of North Carolina

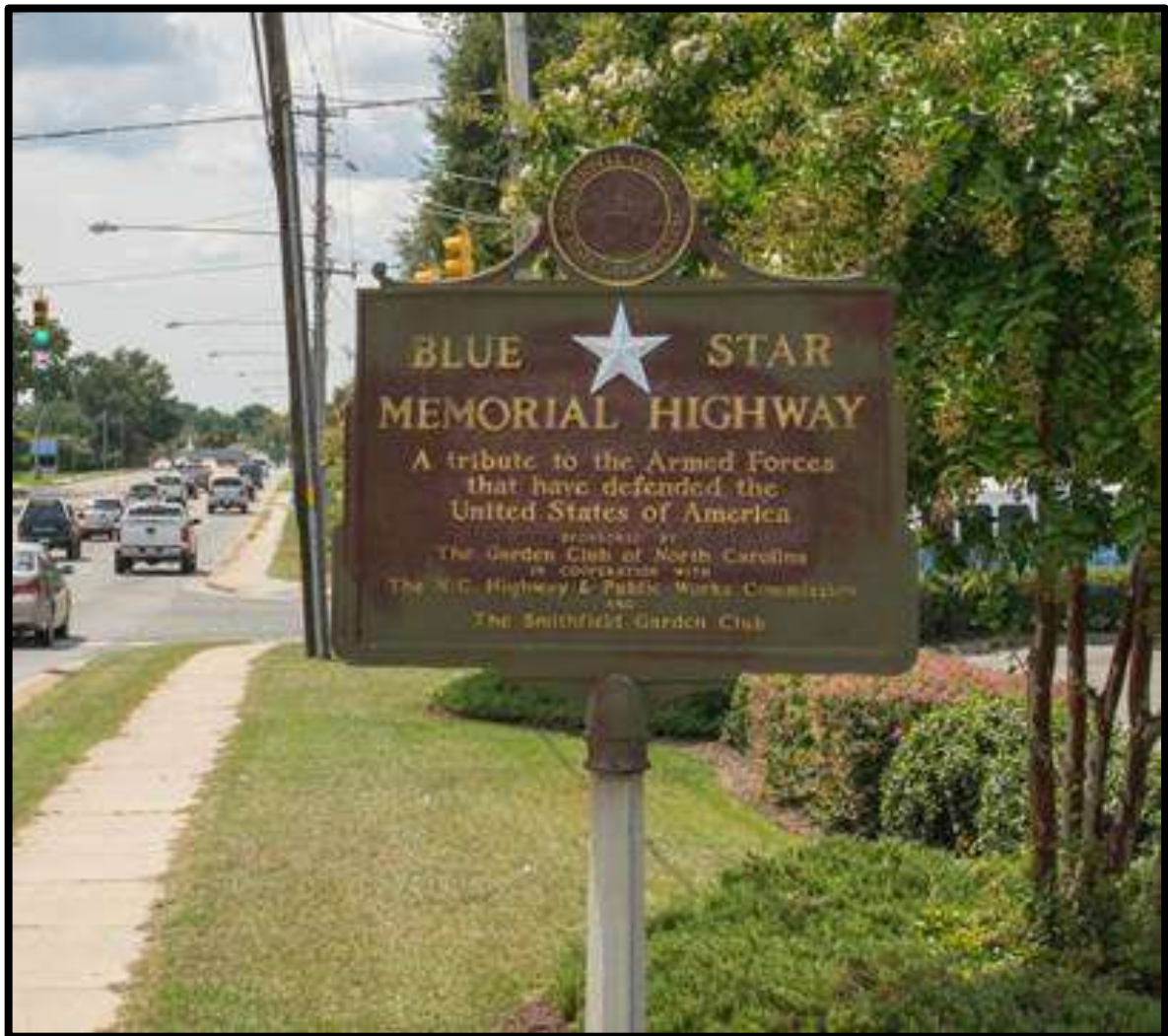


Smithfield, Johnston County

Location: U.S. 301 (Brightleaf Boulevard) at Hospital Road

Dedicated:

Presented by: Smithfield Garden Club; Garden Club of North Carolina; North Carolina Highway & Public Works Commission



Spivey's Corner, Sampson County

Location: Spivey's Corner Fire Station

Dedicated: May 25, 2013

Presented by: Just-A-Mere Garden Club; Woodmen of the World Lodge 1034



Statesville, Iredell County

Location: U.S. 64/U.S. 21 intersection in east Statesville

Dedicated: 1950s

Presented by: Brookdale Garden Club



Statesville, Iredell County

Location: Jennings Road and Snow Creek Road

Dedicated: June 22, 2013

Presented by: Field and Stream Garden Club; North Iredell Ruritan Club



Tarboro, Edgecombe County

Location: 3503 N. Main St., west of Indian Lake Recreation Complex (originally U.S. 64A at Lake Valley Drive)

Dedicated: Originally unknown; renovated and moved March 28, 2018

Presented by: Garden Club of North Carolina; North Carolina Highway & Public Works Commission



Trent Woods, Craven County

Location: Chelsea Road near Trent Woods Town Hall

Dedicated: Sept. 9, 2012

Presented by: Trent Woods Garden Club; Town of Trent Woods; National Garden Clubs, Inc.



I-26 Buncombe/Henderson County

Location: I-26 West at milepost 10, 12 miles south of Asheville

Dedicated: July 18, 2008

Presented by: Asheville Garden Club



I-26 Henderson County Rest Area

Location: I-26 West rest area in Henderson County

Dedicated: Unknown

Presented by: NA

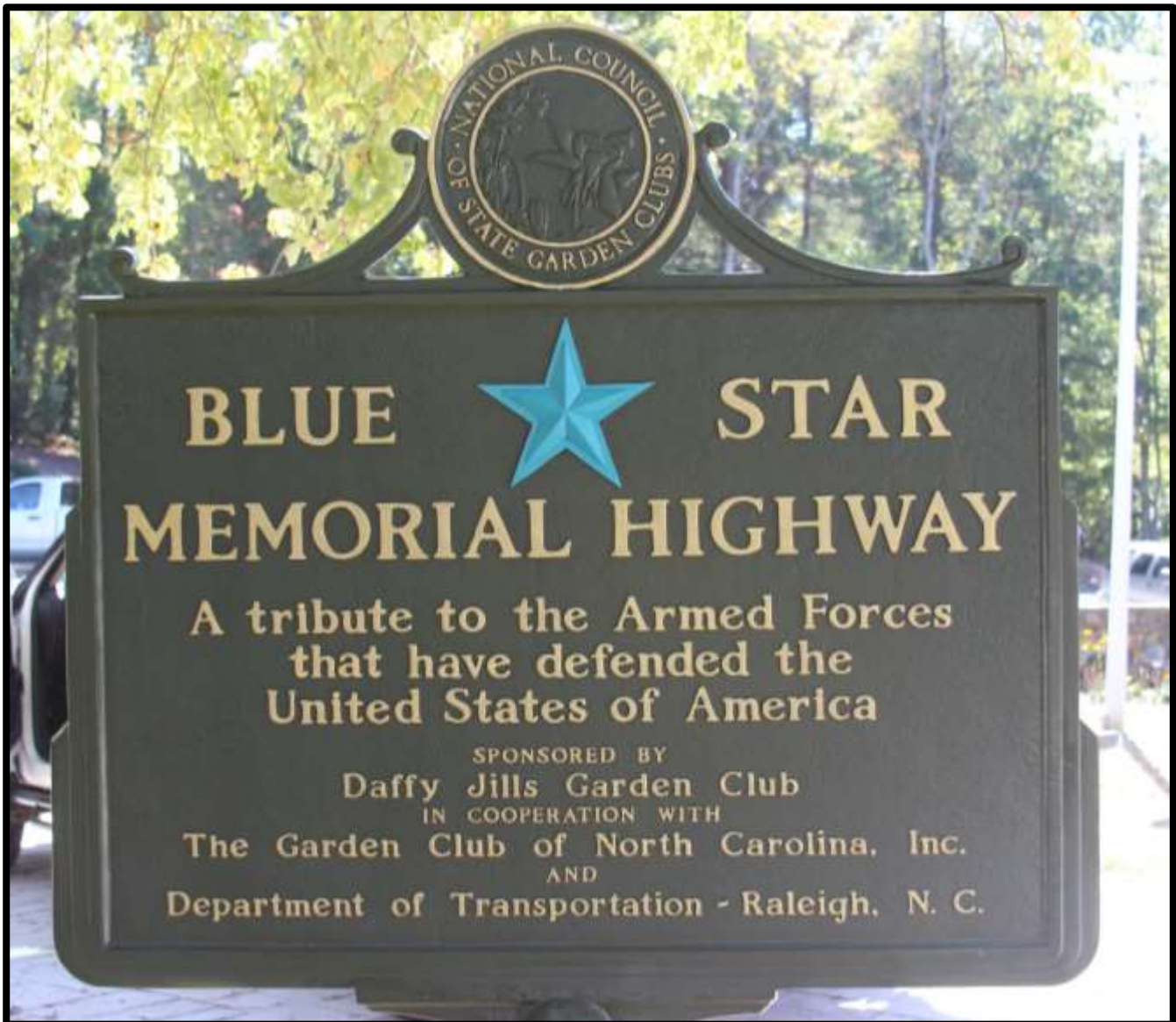


I-26 Polk County

Location: I-26 West at milepost 36, south of Columbus

Dedicated: September 1977; refurbished and rededicated April 4, 2017

Presented by: Daffy Jills Garden Club; Garden Club of North Carolina; NCDOT



I-40 Catawba Rest Area

Location: I-40 East at milepost 136, 10 miles east of Conover

Dedicated:

Presented by: Garden of Eden Garden Club, District 2



I-40 Davie County Rest Area

Location: I-40 East at milepost 177

Dedicated:

Presented by: Bermuda Run Garden Club



I-40 Duplin County Rest Area

Location: I-40 at milepost 364, in median at N.C. 24 interchange, 2 miles west of Warsaw

Dedicated: April 6, 2005

Presented by: Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.



I-40 McDowell County Welcome Center

Location: I-40 West at milepost 82, 3 miles southwest of Marion

Dedicated:

Presented by: Marion Council of Garden Clubs



I-77 Iredell County Rest Area

Location: I-77 Iredell County rest area (Originally I-77 South Mooresville Rest Area north of Statesville)

Dedicated: Originally unknown; moved to new location Feb. 1, 2018

Presented by: Statesville Garden Council; Garden Club of North Carolina; NCDOT



I-77 Mecklenburg County Welcome Center

Location: I-77, milepost 1

Dedicated: Oct. 29, 2016

Presented by: Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs; North Carolina DAR District 3



I-77 Surry County Welcome Center

Location: I-77 milepost 105, at Virginia state line

Dedicated: July 21, 2006

Presented by: Modern Gardeners Garden Club; Surry County Appearance Commission



I-85 Davidson County Rest Area

Location: I-85 North at milepost 99

Dedicated: May 19, 2014

Presented by: Garden Clubs of Davidson County; Davidson County Veterans Council



I-85 Davidson County Rest Area

Location: I-85 South at milepost 99

Dedicated: May 19, 2014

Presented by: Garden Clubs of Davidson County; Davidson County Veterans Council



I-95 Northampton County, Roanoke Rapids

Location: I-95 at milepost 181, 1 mile south of Virginia state line

Dedicated:

Presented by: Garden Clubs of District XII



I-95 Robeson County Welcome Center

Location: I-95 at milepost 5

Dedicated: Nov. 13, 2016

Presented by: Youth Garden Club*

**This is the first Youth Garden Club-sponsored Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in North Carolina.*



U.S. 17 Beaufort County Rest Area

Location: U.S. 17 rest area in Chocowinity

Dedicated: Nov. 10, 2018

Presented by: Washington Garden Club; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15



U.S. 64 Dare County Rest Area

Location: U.S. 64 Rest Area in Roanoke Island (originally U.S. 64 and Budleigh Street)

Dedicated: Originally, Feb. 2, 1950; renovated and moved May 5, 2011

Presented by: Garden Club of North Carolina



U.S. 70 Craven County Rest Area

Location: U.S. 70 rest area in Craven County

Dedicated: Sept. 8, 2017

Presented by: Trent Woods Garden Club; Craven County Veterans Council; Elks Post #764, Knights of Columbus; NCDOT



CONTACT

For more information about the
Blue Star Memorial Marker Program,
please [contact the](#)
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